

# BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 8, No. 19

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

May 13, 2004

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## Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

**BARSTOW LOG**  
SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

<https://www.barstow.usmc.mil>

# Tech Assist Team deploys to Afghanistan

By Cpl. Andy J. Hurt  
Barstow Log Editor

Eight Marines from MCLB Barstow's Fleet Support Division Technical Assist Team were deployed recently to forward positions in Afghanistan.

The team, consisting of Marines ranking from corporal to master sergeant, was tasked with preparation for deployment with less than one-week notice.

"We were called back from a trip in Northern California two weeks early," said Master Sgt. James Seifert, team leader.

"We were told on a Wednesday that we would be leaving on a Monday."

Seifert said that with little time

for preparation, getting things in order for a deployment was proving hectic.

"We had to make sure we all had our shots, and that our wills and things were all in order," he said.

Personnel deploying from MCLB Barstow may have seemed unusual a few months ago but has become more common with the re-deployment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Civilians from Maintenance Center Barstow, corpsmen from the Branch Medical Clinic, and Marines and dogs from the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit have all executed "unexpected" deployments recently.

"Headquarters Marine Corps is

looking at their rosters and seeing a plethora of supply Marines, finance Marines and others from (MCLB) Barstow that haven't deployed yet. Don't be surprised if your card gets pulled," said Headquarters Battalion commanding officer Maj. Clarence T. Guthrie III.

For the more seasoned Marines and their families, the recent deployment, scheduled for 60 days, is not so unusual.

"I'm used to Jim being gone all the time," said Lisa Kurek, wife of Gunnery Sgt. James F. Kurek, member of the Tech Assist Team.

"He was trying to hide his excitement when he told me they were leaving, but I'm excited for him," she said. Kurek and other members of the team oftentimes leave MCLB

Barstow for temporary additional duty assignments, inspecting vehicles and other tactical equipment at reserve units throughout the country.

The eight members of the team are considered technical experts in their job fields.

The mission of the team in Afghanistan will be primarily the installation of armored plates to tactical vehicles such as humvees, said Seifert. The process is known as "vehicle hardening."

The deployment demonstrates the critical task many Marines at MCLB Barstow overlook when searching for a purpose. Maintenance and engineering are two small parts of a small base that play a huge role in combat support elements.

# Bush asks Americans not to judge military by actions of a few

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush asked Americans on May 9 not to judge the U.S. military on the illegal and shocking actions of a few soldiers.

In his weekly radio address to the nation, Bush called the allegations of detainee abuse in Abu Ghraib prison south of Baghdad a stain on U.S. honor and on the country's reputation.

Six soldiers have been charged with criminal behavior so far in the scandal. Bush said that when the investigations are concluded, more may be charged.

"We will learn all the facts and determine the full extent of these abuses," the president said. "Those involved will be identified; they will answer for their actions. All prison operations in Iraq will be thoroughly reviewed to make certain that similar disgraceful incidents are never repeated."

Bush stressed that the actions of a few individuals should not reflect on the honor of the more than

200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Our country has sent troops into Iraq to liberate that country, return sovereignty to the Iraqi people and make America and the world more secure, he said.

"In this cause, our troops perform a thousand acts of kindness, decency and courage every day. More than 700 Americans have given their lives. The brave and honorable soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Marines who are serving and sacrificing in Iraq – not the few who have let us down – show the true character of America. The men and women of our military have my complete confidence as they carry on with their mission."

In spite of the charges, service members continue taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq, Bush said. Marines continue to work with local Iraqis in Fallujah to pacify that city and extend the reach of the central government.

See **MILITARY** Page 7



Photo by Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton

Marines from Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 question a detainee outside an apartment while others search for weapons recently in Haiti. For the complete story about the Marines and their search and seizure operations turn to Page 11.

# March 2004 Safety Summary: 6 Marines dead

## ALMAR 020/04 Headquarters Marine Corps

During March, two Marines died in off-duty mishaps and four Marines died in one of two aviation mishaps.

### Off-duty

A lance corporal died after hitting a guard-rail in his privately owned vehicle and being struck by another vehicle. Another lance corporal drowned while swimming during a sea condition warning.

### Aviation

Two lieutenant colonels, a gunnery sergeant,

and a lance corporal died in the crash of their UC-35D Citation Encore aircraft during a night instrument approach. The aircraft was destroyed.

Two AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters collided during a refueling exercise in Iraq. There were no fatalities as a result of the mishap. Both aircraft were destroyed.

### Trends/observations

To date, 24 Marines have died this fiscal year in off-duty and recreational mishaps. If this trend continues, there will be more recreational fatalities this fiscal year than in the previous seven. Be proactive and play your part in changing this trend by taking care of your-

self and your fellow Marines.

Historically, drowning is the number two causal factor of fatal off-duty mishaps. As summer approaches, opportunities to swim will increase considerably. Proper operational risk management and training will reduce these mishaps while allowing Marines to enjoy swimming and water-related activities in a safe environment. Some thoughts about ORM for Marines when swimming are contained below.

Consider also adding water safety/swim training to your units' fitness programs. In addition to increasing water safety awareness, you can add a low impact physical training regimen that will increase endurance, reduce

exercise-related injuries, improve confidence in and around the water, and most importantly, reduce the likelihood of a drowning mishap.

The below ORM example is a tool for Marines to use in reducing risk when swimming. Marines should add to it as their circumstances dictate.

Identify hazards such as submerged rocks or debris. Examine the water to better gauge its depth and currents; look out for rip tides; and be aware of approaching weather systems that bring heavy rain, lightning or rough seas. Take into account the swimming abilities of everyone in your group.

See SAFETY Page 7

# We can do more than pray

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood  
Base Chaplain



On May 6 I was privileged to participate in an intimate ceremony in which we celebrated the National Day of Prayer.

It was a special time of gathering people from all different walks of life,

from different places, different backgrounds, and different viewpoints. All of these differences we were able to set aside for a few moments, and during this period of grace we saw each other for truly what we were, part of God's creation.

We paused for just a few minutes, the equivalent of a coffee break, and came together in one place, in one mind and in one accord to say prayers for our nation, our leaders, our military personnel, our families, our schools and for peace. We did not ask for money or for blessings for ourselves. We did not cry out for better jobs or nicer cars, the issue of monetary prosperity never came up. What did come up was our mutual desire for our world to be a

better place. We asked that our nation's president and leaders might be guided to make right choices with the freedoms that they are granted. We asked for protection for our military that are in harm's way, and that somehow peace would be brought to a world in turmoil. We asked for strength for our families to be families again. Not continuing the ravages of broken relationships, rather fostering the sense of love and devotion to each other that inculcates a sense of unity and sets an example of care demonstrating the meaning of the word "love." We prayed for our children that they would find in us examples of right living, right thinking, and right action. That they would be able to look to us as guides through a world filled with anxiety and fear, temptation and greed, selfishness and guile. We prayed that our schools would become places more in tune with learning than with the fear of violence; more in tune with wholesome values than with a fear of drug use; places of peace and safety during tumultuous times.

All of these things we prayed and hoped that somehow they might all come to pass. As we said those prayers each of us realized that no matter how much we prayed it would take more than prayers to bring our desires to fruition; it would take us.

See CHAPLAIN Page 8

### Chapel Services

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.

### Catholic Rosary

Bible study will now be held at the Colonel's Workshop, Bldg. 573  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more info call 577-6849.

## Just doing my job ...



Photo by Rob Jackson

Charles Blakley, painter, Cost Work Center 748, Maintenance Center Barstow, tapes off areas not receiving paint on an MK-48 transfer case. Blakley and fellow painters are now performing their daily tasks in MCB's new paint and coating facility.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Ingrid E. Bergman, Commanding Officer

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# News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon Thursdays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to [editor@barstow.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@barstow.usmc.mil)

## Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated lunch menus for the Family Restaurant, Cactus Cafe and the Lanzer's Lounge are the same. Lunch menus are subject to change.

**Today** – Breaded pork chops, apple sauce and rice.

**Friday** – Baked Mahi Mahi, stir fried vegetables with fried rice.

**Monday** – Veal Parmesan and French roll.

**Tuesday** – Meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy.

**Wednesday** – Chicken fajitas, flour tortillas, refried beans, rice.

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians, \$4.75.

Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch hours: Family Restaurant: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cactus Cafe: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lanzer Lounge: 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information, call 577-6428.

## Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Prices: Active duty military \$1.60, all others \$3.25.

## Family Night Dining

**Tonight** – Taco night. Taco-burrito bar with all the trimmings, refried beans, Mexican rice, tossed green salad, dessert and fountain drink of your choice.

## Luncheon

The Asian Pacific Islander Committee is scheduled to hold a luncheon May 20 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Oasis Club. Teriyaki chicken, steamed jasmine rice, stir-fry vegetables, rolls, butter and ice tea will be served. Tickets cost \$7.50 and can be purchased from the following API committee members by today:

Tulu Niusulu 577-7180  
Sam Callejo 577-6632  
Hegi King 577-7695  
Vee Pasco 577-6884  
Fred Molino 577-7210  
Debbie Anilao 577-6746  
Corina Bonner 577-6619  
Amy Mandap 577-6895  
Marva Johnson 577-6965

## Leave Sharing Program

Purificacion Pasco, Marine Corps Community Services, has been affected by a medical emergency.

People desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing Program may obtain a leave donor application through their division/section administrative officer.

For more information, call Donna Wilder or Johnnie Curtis, Civilian Management Support Division, at 577-6638/6734.

## NMCRS Fund Drive Events

The following events are being held in support of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive:

The Communication Division is scheduled to hold a barbeque hamburger and hot link sale from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today. Meal Deals of a hamburger or hot link with chips and soda will cost \$5 with additional hamburgers or hot links costing \$3.

For more information, call Vonnice Allen at 577-6031.

Military Personnel Division is sponsoring a root beer float sale in the red wing of Building 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. today. \$1.25 for two scoops.

The Budget Office will be holding its annual bake sale on May 18 at 7 a.m. in the blue wing of Building 15. Get baked goods like cookies and pies without feeling guilty because it is for the NMCRS fund drive.

Headquarters Battalion will be hosting a Dunk the Boss Day on May 14 where your favorite officer, staff noncommissioned officer or civilian boss can be dunked.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Daniel Dorado at 577-6960.

It is not too late to donate to the NMCRS fund drive. Contribution forms need to be filled out for each individual donation, whether for cash or check.

All money donated to the fund drive goes to the charity, without administrative expenses.

## Ball Committee Fundraisers

The Marine Corps Ball Committee is scheduled to hold the following fundraisers for this year's Marine Corps Ball:

Friday Golf and Basketball tournament.

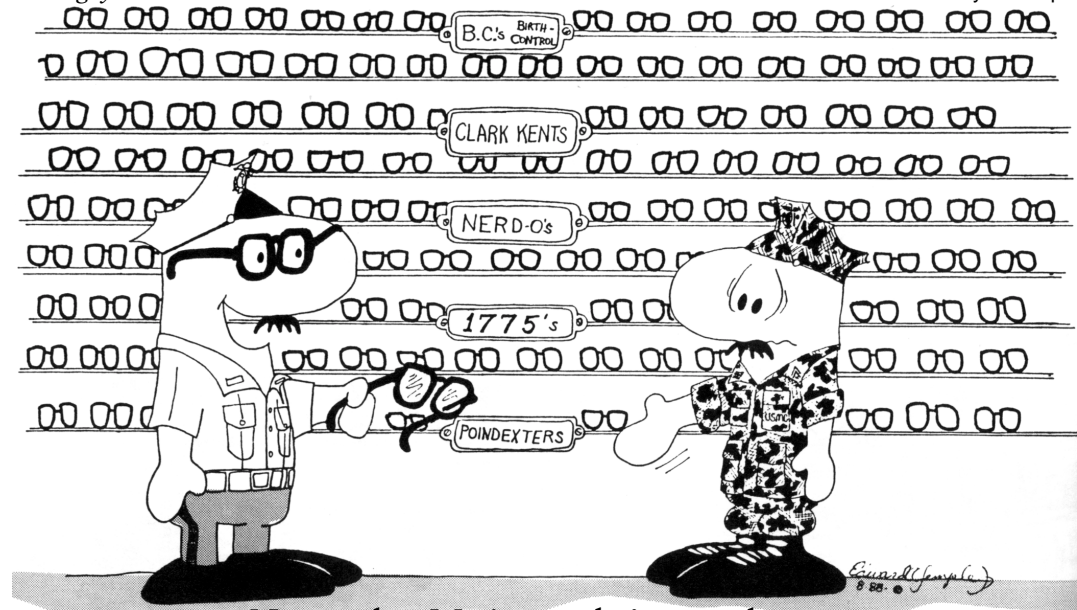
The money raised from these events will go toward this year's Marine Corps Ball. For more information contact Danielle Heinze, HqBn., at 577-6307.

## Nickname the E-Club

The Single Marine Program is holding a nickname your Enlisted Club, ending Friday. The contest is open to all enlisted active and retired Marines. Nickname suggestions

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine to design eyeglasses.

should be sent to Sgt. Peters at [daniel.peters@usmc.mil](mailto:daniel.peters@usmc.mil). Names will be selected by the Single Marine Program executive council.

There will be a grand prize for the selection of the winner's name.

## Case Lot Sale

MCLB Barstow's Commissary is scheduled to hold a case lot sale from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 21 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 22.

The event will be held in the Commissary parking lot.

Case lots are a way to save even more on Commissary every day low prices.

The sale is open to all active duty, retired, reserve and guard personnel with Commissary privileges.

Items will be limited to quantities on hand, no rain checks.

Savings of up to 50 percent on paper products, detergents, canned vegetables, juice drinks, snacks, frozen foods, cereal, pet supplies and more.

There is also the chance to win one of the Commissary's give-a-ways. Prizes include camping gear, a barbeque grill, a \$50 shopping spree and a full size stand alone basketball hoop.

For more information, call Patty Geary at 577-6403 ext. 201.

## Blood Bank Drive

A blood drive is scheduled to be held May 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Building 44 - the Base Gym, and from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maintenance Center.

Healthy individuals who are at least 17 years of age are encouraged to donate.

All perspective donors should be free of illness and infections, weigh at least 110 pounds and not be at risk for AIDS or hepatitis.

All departments should submit a list of donors to the Human Resources Office no later than May 24. The Fleet Support Division and the Installation and Logistics Department are to submit a list of donors to the Maintenance Center.

Each department's administrative officer should designate a representative who will be in attendance one half hour prior to the scheduled time frame. These representatives will be responsible for checking donors in and calling substitutes for those who are unable to donate due to absence or rejection.

Please ensure that volunteers do not arrive prior to their scheduled time. The schedule has been set up to ensure a smooth flowing blood drive without long waits for employees.

For more information, contact Josie Marquez at 577-6483.

## Support the Troops

The DOD has authorized the Armed Services Exchanges to sell pre-paid calling cards to any individual or organization that wishes to purchase cards for the troops that are deployed, in support of the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program. The ASE operates telephone call centers anywhere service members are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The cards offered are the best value for calls made from the call centers, they never expire, and there are no added charges or connection fees.

Anyone interested in donating a pre-paid calling card can log onto any of the following Web sites for more information:

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service at <http://www.aafes.com/>, the Navy Exchange

Service Command at <http://navynex.com>, or the Marine Corps Exchange at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/>. Click on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link and pre-paid cards can be purchased for a specific individual or to any service member who is hospitalized or deployed.

For personnel aboard MCLB Barstow wishing to make a donation, the Main Exchange is accepting donations. For more information, call (760) 256-0212.

## Identity Theft

The U.S. Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service warns taxpayers of an e-mail based scheme that attempts to trick taxpayers into revealing personal information such as social security numbers, driver's license information and bank and credit card numbers.

The ploy contains an e-mail, which is sent to consumers claiming that they are under investigation for tax fraud and are subject to prosecution. The e-mail informs recipients they can "help" the investigation by providing real information and directs them to an official looking Web site, <http://deptreas.org/irs/7634/>, where detailed personal information must be provided to dispute the charge.

The site has been shut down at the request of the IRS and the Treasury Inspector General for Administration.

The bogus Web site and the e-mail contained several grammatical errors, rendering them immediately suspect.

The IRS does not use e-mail to contact taxpayers about issues related to their accounts. Official taxpayer contact usually includes a letter on IRS stationary in an IRS envelope. They also contain a contact phone number.

Taxpayers who believe they have

Eye Protection

Operators and passengers are required to wear a shatterproof protective shield or goggles at all times while operating or riding aboard the vehicle. The operator eye protection requirement may also be met by a windshield which is not tinted and so constructed as to rise above the line of sight of the operator when the operator is seated astride the motorcycle in a normal upright position. No tinted or colored eye protection may be worn during the hours of darkness as defined by the California Vehicle Code, Section 280.

Reflective Vest

A highly visible and reflective upper torso garment (lime green or international orange with reflective striping) will be the outermost garment worn by operators and passengers while the vehicle is in motion. The garment will be worn over the uniform by military personnel while the vehicle is being operated but will be removed immediately upon dismounting from the vehicle if the rider is in military uniform.

Helmet

Operators and passengers must wear an unornamented protective helmet meeting or exceeding Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 218 while operating the vehicle; a DOT label or stamp upon the helmet signifies that it meets this requirement. Additionally, the helmet must be of either highly reflective design or be affixed with a one-inch wide white or silver reflective strip which will extend horizontally around the base and vertically from front to rear.

Outerwear

Clothing will cover upper torso and legs. Long-sleeve jackets are recommended but not required.

Hand Gear

Gloves are recommended but not required.

Footwear

Hard-soled boots or shoes must be worn. Footwear that exposes a portion of the foot (e.g. sandals and open-toed shoes) are prohibited.

\*All riders must have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Card before they may register two- and three-wheeled vehicles on base. The personal protective equipment requirements must be met by all military personnel assigned to the base while operating or riding a motorized two- or three-wheeled vehicle on or off of the installation. Civilians operating a motorized two- or three-wheeled vehicle aboard the installation are required to comply with these requirements.

MOTORCYCLE  
SAFETY  
GEAR  
REQUIREMENTS -  
BO P5500.13

Photo illustration by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt



# Armed Forces Day celebrates a ‘Tradition of Heroes’

By Lance Cpl. Ashley Warden  
Combat Correspondent

Observance and participation in various national, cultural and social awareness events are part of the nation’s traditions.

In addition to this tradition, Congress has named the month of May National Military Appreciation Month to encompass the history of service members and achievements. Included in the celebration is Armed Forces Day.

It is a time for the nation to express its appreciation for the armed forces.

Armed Forces Day, set aside every year to honor the men and women in all branches of the military who protect the country and its citizens, presents to the American people the idea of a unified military force.

Training diligently, both physically and mentally, service members can be called upon at a moment’s notice to perform risky missions for the freedom and country they stand for, and must be prepared to prevail.

Before the creation of an Armed Forces Day, each branch of the military had their own day of celebration. On Aug. 31, 1949, then Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day to replace the separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.

The creation of the holiday stemmed from

the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. Each branch of the military was asked to abandon sponsorship of its service-specific day to celebrate the newly announced holiday.

The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day, while the Marine Corps declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day celebrated on Nov. 10, but supports Armed Forces Day.

Former President Harry Truman declared the third Saturday in May Armed Forces Day when he announced it in his Feb. 20, 1950, presidential proclamation.

In his speech, Truman praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas in a speech announcing the formation of the day and said, “It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace.”

The first Armed Forces Day was themed “Teamed for Defense,” chosen as a means of expressing the unification of all military branches under one department of the government.

“The heritage of freedom must be guarded as carefully in peace as it was in war. Faith, not suspicion, must be the key to our relationships. Sacrifice, not selfishness, must be the eternal price of liberty. Vigilance, not appeasement, is the byword of living freedoms. Our Armed Forces ... protecting the peace

and building for security with freedom, are ‘Teamed for Defense’ ... ” said Gen. Omar Bradley, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a speech about the first Armed Forces Day.

The day was also chosen for several other reasons. The holiday was a type of educational program for civilians, which would lead to increased awareness of the armed forces.

It was designed to expand public understanding of what types of jobs are performed as well as the role of the military in civilian life. This was the day for the military to show the civilian population state-of-the-art equipment.

An article printed in the May 17, 1952, edition of the New York Times stated, “This is the day on which we have the welcome opportunity to pay special tribute to the men and women of the armed forces ... to all the individuals who are in the service of their country all over the world. Armed Forces Day won’t be a matter of parades and receptions for a good many of them. They will all be in the line of duty and some of them may give their lives in that duty.”

This statement can also be applied today, considering many service members are overseas fighting for Iraq’s freedom and the global war on terrorism.

“Today let us, as Americans, honor the American fighting man. For it is he, the sol-



dier, the sailor, the airman, the Marine, who has fought to preserve freedom. It is his valor that has given renewed hope to the free world that by working together in discipline and faith our ideals of freedom will always prevail,” said Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chief of Naval Operations.

For more information, look at the Department of Defense article on Armed Forces Day, which can be found at [www.defenselink.mil/afd](http://www.defenselink.mil/afd).

# FSD marches on in Whitney hike training program

**By 1st Lt. Jason M. Kut**  
Fleet Support Division

Just before the April 23 dawn, the Marines of 3rd Platoon set out to trample Telescope Peak - the highest point in Death Valley - for the third of six conditioning hikes designed to prepare them for their Mount Whitney hike in July.

The thrust of the recent hike was to get a longer, more strenuous hike that crests 10,000 feet. Telescope peak was well above the goal standing at 11,049 feet above sea level and 14 miles round trip.

Having been seasoned through two hikes so far, the group of 10 quickly divided into ability driven hiking groups of two or three Marines, with Sgt. Quon Tran and Lance Cpl. Jose M. Santos in the lead.

After a one mile the narrow trail that hugged the side of a radio hill gave the Marines their first glimpse of Telescope Peak, which was still covered in snow. With a panoramic view of Death Valley, the Marines took in all the sights, to include the Sierra Nevada mountains, the salt flats and Badwater, which is the lowest point in the United States.

Some of the Marines were hoping to catch a glimpse of Mount Whitney, which is visible from the trail. Unfortunately, from that distance

Whitney was indistinguishable among the hundreds of other peaks that form the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Along the trail Staff Sgt. Travis M. Snyder broke into a trot from the rear group to motivate the rest of the Marines. Morale was soaring and spirits were high until the temperature dropped after 2.5 miles. Hiking on the military crest of the finger was the best way to keep out of the chilling winds that chapped lips and froze the extremities.

Hard packed snow and icy patches along the trail slowed the pace to a crawl at some junctures. The Marines pushed on, donning all of their cold weather gear and borrowing more from their buddies to keep warm enough. Breaks were taken wherever protection from the wind and cold were found. Cpl. Thomas J. Maxwell noted that "the cold was the biggest challenge of the hike. I didn't expect Death Valley to get this cold." Most of the Marines readily agreed that the cold was an unexpected challenge.

After 5.5 miles of hiking up the hill at around 10,500 feet, the trail became too dangerous to proceed. Master Sgt. James E. Seifert and 1st Lt. Jason M. Kut directed the Marines down to a safe area, where packs were staged and the Marines regrouped before setting out back down the mountain. Falling short of the crest, the goal



Photo by Master Sgt. James Seifert

(From left to right) Sgt. Quon Tran, Lance Cpl. Jose M. Santos, Cpl. Thomas Maxwell, Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder and 1st Lt. Jason M. Kut pose for a shot within sight of Telescope Peak's summit.

of 10,000 feet had been achieved and the Marines got their first good taste of oxygen debt, and some even experienced the beginnings of elevation sickness.

The trip down the mountain was filled with

snowball attacks, trash talking and double-timing to get back faster. Santos, who led the way up and down, earned the title of "Mountain Goat of the Month." He dethroned Cpl. Douglas O. Yates, who held the title for the last two hikes.

## MILITARY from Page 1

"They are using targeted force to strike former Baathists and other militants, surrounding the city to prevent the escape of enemy fighters and taking every precaution to avoid hurting the innocent," he said.

In the holy city of Najaf, the Army's 1st Armored Division is taking on radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's illegal militia.

"Elements of this militia have been ejected from the Najaf governor's office, which they had been occupying," Bush said.

The prison scandal has not derailed the return of sovereignty to the Iraqi people on June 30. Plans are moving forward and the coalition is working with the Iraqi Governing Council and the United Nations to craft an interim government.

"On June 30, a sovereign Iraqi interim government will assume authority, and Iraqis will take over the functions of their state, from basic services to law enforcement to diplomacy," Bush said.

The Coalition Provisional Authority will go out of existence, and an American embassy will assume responsibility for U.S. dealings with Iraqi leaders.

Bush said the U.S. responsibility for a safe and secure Iraq does not disappear with the changeover. Coalition forces will remain in place, ready to aid the Iraqis as they claim freedom.

"We have no intention of leaving that nation at the mercy of thugs and murderers," Bush said. "We're determined to help build a free and stable Iraq, a nation at peace with its neighbors and with the world."

## SAFETY from Page 2

- Assess the severity and probability of any hazards associated with your plans.

- Reduce risk by making sound decisions. For example, bring a cell phone if you have one; let someone know where you will be swimming and when you plan to be back; do not swim alone; swim when there is a lifeguard or Marine Corps water safety instructor present; and bring a safety flotation device of some kind in case of an emergency. Review CPR steps for drowning victims.

- Implement controls such as limiting the duration and distance of swimming to an acceptable level for all. Wait a reasonable period after eating before swimming and do not consume alcohol while engaging in water activities. Supervision is the most important step in the ORM process. Be especially watchful and alert in and around the water.

As I see our most precious assets injured or killed in recurring and preventable mishaps, I am reminded that simply following our core values, "honor, courage, and commitment," would save many lives. For this reason, I've decided that our third quarter safety theme will be our core values. Leaders will take time to re-emphasize the meaning of our core values and engage Marines in conversation about how to maintain those values in their off-duty lives. For a comprehensive description of each of the core values, go to the 'What's New' page of the safety division Web site, <http://www.hqmc.usmc.mil/safetyweb.nsf>.

Semper fidelis, M. W. Hagee, general, U.S. Marine Corps, commandant of the Marine Corps.



Photo by Pfc. Nich R. Babb

A confined space entry-training course was held at the MCLB Barstow Base Safety Office April 28, to teach new employees how to handle confined space maintenance situations. Gene Helvie, who works for the Installation and Logistics Department here, is looking around a telecommunications manhole while dirt falls through the hole from above. The manhole measured 10 feet long, 8 feet deep and 6 feet wide, and acts as a maintenance point with copper wires and fiber optic cables. To be able to enter the manhole the students first filled out a permission permit and made sure the hole did not contain any fatal gasses by using a detection device. The two-day course had a curriculum consisting of how to fill a permit out for entry, how to detect certain gasses, and overall safety in a confined space.



# READY, FRONT

## Battalion PT session stresses combat first aid

**By Cpl. Andy J. Hurt**  
Barstow Log Editor

Friday mornings at MCLB Barstow start early. Usually around 6 a.m., sleepy-eyed devil dogs come crawling out of the barracks here and convoy to Sorensen Field for any range of activities for battalion-level physical training. May 7 was a little different.

Instead of the convoy, Marines woke to the idle noise of a government bus outside their windows. Without question, they piled on, each Marine more curious than the next as to where they were going. The bus pulled off base and headed East on I-40 to the Yermo Annex, Fleet Support Division where they were met by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Kut, head of the Principle End Item Branch.

Kut divvied the Marines into four groups, and a formation run with in-time cadence carried them to the grounds of Building 551. Each group was sent to a different area and the training began.

The emphasis of the training was combat first-aid, a series of skills that all Marines learn in boot camp.

Station one focused on old-fashioned Marine Corps rifle PT. Marines formed ranks and with rubber M-16s, ran through various strength and conditioning drills to the count of cadence.

Off to the side of the formation, two Marines were furiously pumping away at the hydraulic lifters on an M198 155mm Howitzer cannon.

The cannon was in place to teach Marines how to raise the gun off of its base-plate and onto its wheels for transport. Some Marines found the task quite difficult, others reminisced.

Maj. Clarence Guthrie III, Headquarters Battalion commanding officer, will soon be returning to his reserve unit where, 17 years ago, he left as a cannon-cocking lance corporal. Seeing young Marines training with artillery was great, he said.

Across a dirt lot, another group of Marines was training in combat buddy-carrying techniques. Utility blouses were used to bind metal poles together to form stretchers. Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Organics Maintenance Chief at FSD, taught the class that covered four expedient ways for Marines to handle casualties in the heat of battle. During the practical application session, Marines let out war cries as they heroically fireman-carried their "wounded" to safety.

A third station, located inside a shed on the premises, stressed the technique and importance of combat wound dressing techniques.

"This stuff will save lives," said Gunnery Sgt. Tad Snidecor, Headquarters Battalion supply chief.

Snidecor was faced with a real-world situation when he was a young sergeant, requiring him to recall and implement the various bandaging techniques that may have meant life or death for those effected.

More training was taking place west of the dressing application site. Marines were being instructed in the crucial task of splinting broken limbs.

"Use 'thar' Marine's gear (to splint) before you use yours," said Gunnery Sgt. Terry Fields of FSD.

"That way," he said, "if something happens to you, another

Marine can use your gear to fix you up."

Jokingly, he added, "If it's a soldier, re-assure him that he will receive a medal for being a (prisoner of war)."

Few people understand the rigorous protocol that Kut was held to when planning this training. Procedures can oftentimes kill a training idea while it is still in the planning phase. Guthrie explained that the training was presented to him with short notice.

"Lt. Kut came to me with this earlier in the week, and told me he had some good training planned. Right when he explained to me, I was on board."

Overall, said Guthrie, "the training was planned and executed flawlessly."

### CHAPLAIN from Page 2

We have to be the instruments of those prayers that initiate the actions and move those desires toward resolution. It is no longer enough that we assume everyone wants what is best for children. We can long assume that everyone automatically abhors violence and drug use, promiscuity and alcoholism, all things that seem to disrupt lives and families.

Therefore, we each must take an active role in working to bring our own prayers to fruition. We must be willing to do more than pray for good things to happen, we must act to make them happen.

We must do more than "talk" about how bad things are and what we wish they would be like; we must begin to join together to find ways to solve the problems that we as a society face. Together we can make our prayers become a reality.

Peace,  
Fr Randel

### BRIEFS from Page 3

received suspect communication are encouraged to call TIGTA's toll-free fraud referral hotline at 1-800-366-4484. Taxpayers can also contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040, where an IRS representative will be able to verify the taxpayer's account status and determine whether the claims are legitimate.

More information on identity theft and fraud can be found on the following Web sites: [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) and [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov).

### Quarters of the Month

May marks the beginning of the summer-long quarters of the month contest which looks to award yards that have an extraordinary appearance. The program is open to anyone who lives in base housing. Residents will fall into one of the following three categories: E5 and below, E6 and above and officers.

Winners are awarded a monetary prize, a picture with the base commanding officer, and a gift.

For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Edward Jones at 577-6871.



Photo by Pfc. Nich R. Babb

A group of Marines receive instruction on how to splint a broken bone from Gunnery Sgt. Terry Fields during a special training addition of Battalion PT on May 7.

## HQBN Marines awarded, promoted in May

### Promotions

*The following Marines were promoted to their listed ranks in May.*

Sgt. Jason Dorman  
Provost Marshal's Office

Cpl. Marco Catano  
Administrative Support  
Division

Cpl. Vito Dagostino  
Provost Marshal's Office

Cpl. Courtney Hunt

Provost Marshal's Office

Cpl. Derrick Phillips  
Provost Marshal's Office

Cpl. Jeremy Rogers  
Provost Marshal's Office

Lance Cpl. Ashley Warden  
Public Affairs Office

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Foreman  
Finance Office

### Certificate of Good Conduct

Gunnery Sgt. Terry Fields

Fifth Award

### Gray Belt Recipients

*The following Marines were awarded their MCMAP gray belts on April 2:*

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Bonilla  
Provost Marshal's Office

Sgt. Bruce Kastning  
Provost Marshal's Office

Cpl. Daniel Humble  
Finance Office

Cpl. Quyen Au  
Provost Marshal's Office

### Competency Review Board

A corporal was subject to a Competency Review Board on the grounds of professional incompetence due to failure to maintain established height/weight standards.

Recommendation of the board: denied terminal leave and mandatory participation in the Battalion BCP program until end of active service.



# MCLB Marines, F&ESD conduct training exercise

Story and photos by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt  
Barstow Log Editor

April 29 marked a new chapter in history for a small group of Marines aboard MCLB Barstow. A group of about 15 Marines gathered at the Fire and Emergency Services Division for a morning full of rappelling, obstacle negotiation and esprit de corps.

The training session was implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Kut, head of the Principle End Item Branch at MCLB Barstow's Fleet Support Division, and Staff Sgt. Travis M. Snyder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Organics Maintenance Chief.

One of the day's first activities was simple communication. Volunteers from F&ESD took time out of their respective schedules to provide on-site safety and instructional support.

Many of the obstacles were new to Marines.

The Marines were walked through a pre-determined obstacle course. Kut fearlessly demonstrated different negotiation techniques along the way, and shared his expectations for each obstacle. The first obstacle was nothing more than a ladder climb. Not a difficult task in nearly any situation, until rifles are added.

But Marines and rifles are both instruments of death that look after one another, and devil dogs were

ease.

Obstacle two proved more difficult, as Kut demonstrated team wall negotiation tactics. Teams of four flung themselves on top of one of the training site's numerous discarded railcars, using anything from hands, feet, and rubber rifles to help each other up.

Once the teams were on top of the obstacles, they had to get down. Kut demonstrated the "spider hang," and like lemmings the Marines dropped off of the obstacles.

Obstacle number three was a glimpse of actual Marine Corps training that many Marines hadn't seen since boot camp. The rappelling station was possibly the most exciting event that day.

Luckily, firefighters specializing in the art of descent provided much-needed refresher training and belay support.

One-by-one, Marines swiftly zipped down a three-story wall, one step closer to unofficial fleet readiness.

Once the Marines hit the ground, Kut sent a few back into the building to play victims. Groups of two leathernecks were sent back in to retrieve the victim and carry him down, tactically.

Three sets of stairs and slanted roofs made for extreme difficulty in handling some of the victims, but in

true Marine Corps fashion, no one was left behind.

The next and final obstacle was new to most of the "green" participants. A crawl through a series of pitch-black, dingy tunnels planted below the training complex.

With a shoulder-width diameter or less, the tunnels are used by fire services for darkness and confined spaces training.

It was the same training that helped volunteers retrieve Baby Jessica from a well in 1987. There were no babies in the wells that day, but there were screams and excessive cursing coming from the darkness as Marines shimmed their way through, rifles and all.

Snyder and Kut have been grinding away at extra-curricular training sessions since about mid-January, when Kut decided that Marines here, although getting valuable logistical experience, weren't getting enough basic Marine training.

Snyder is playing the role of creative mastermind, and has organized events ranging from a Mount Whitney training program, to a battalion-level first-aid training event.

Kut said one of his goals is to prepare the Marines for an elevated operations tempo when they change duty stations. For a small group of Marines here, that goal has become reality.

(Left) 1st Lt. Jason M. Kut, head of the Principle End Item Branch at MCLB Barstow's Fleet Support Division, shimmies out of a shoulder-width tunnel during the joint training exercise between Marines and Fire and Emergency Services Division recently. Kut, a mustang officer, has coordinated several training activities over the past months here and plans to continue them until he leaves for MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in June.



(Above) Cpl. Duy K. Ngo, a supply clerk at Fleet Support Division's Strip 8, rappels down the MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division's training site tower during a recent training exercise. Ngo admitted his rappel skills were somewhat rusty since his time at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.



(Left) Lance Cpl. John Y. Kim, a supply clerk at Fleet Support Division, negotiates a ladder obstacle with a rubber M-16 during the training. The exercise was held partly to prepare Marines for an increased tempo in the Marine Corps operating forces.





# AROUND THE CORPS

## Marine among those named to explore space

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug A. Sample  
Armed Forces Press Service

12,500 mph, or Mach 18, and was slated to land in about 15 minutes when the accident occurred.

All seven astronauts aboard were killed; five were serving U.S. military officers. NASA suspended the shuttle flight program while investigations have followed the Columbia tragedy. On April 30, 2004, the agency announced its intent to resume the flight program in Spring 2005.

Bresnik is an F/A-18 pilot and experimental test pilot based in San Diego, Calif. The Fort Knox, Ky., native has degrees from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Dutton, an F/A-22 test pilot stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., has flown combat air patrols over northern Iraq. He was raised in Eugene, Ore., and has degrees from

the U.S. Air Force Academy and the University of Washington.

Cassidy, a Navy SEAL based in Norfolk, Va., completed two tours of duty in Afghanistan and earned a Bronze Star for leading his SEAL team on 23 missions. The Salem, Mass., native has degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kimbrough, born in Killeen, Texas, served as a platoon leader in an Apache attack helicopter company during Operation Desert Storm, and has degrees from the U.S. Military Academy and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Four civilians — three school teachers and an orthopedic surgeon — will join the service members when their training begins this summer at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

During a news briefing welcoming the new candidates, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said the astronauts are the "next steps in the new exploration vision."

"The class is made up of pilots and engineers who will help us develop the next-generation vehicle, scientists who will do research to help humans live and travel in space, and three new educator astronauts to help ensure a new generation is ready for the challenges of exploration," he said.

According to NASA's Web site, astronaut candidates undergo a training and evaluation period of up to two years, part of which requires completion of military water survival and scuba qualification. Candidates must pass a swimming test during their first month of training.

The test includes swimming three lengths of a 25-meter pool without

stopping, and then swimming three lengths of the pool in a flight suit and tennis shoes.

Candidates also undergo land survival training, jet ground and flight training, shuttle orbiter systems training, space station systems training, science and engineering briefings, and orientation tours at all NASA centers, including the Kennedy Space Center and Marshall Space Flight Center.

The candidates are the first announced by NASA under President Bush's new space initiative. Earlier this year, the president committed the United States to long-term human and robotic programs to explore the solar system, starting with a return to the moon as well as future exploration of Mars.

"We will give NASA a new focus and vision for future exploration," the president said.

## Marines, Haitian National Police seize illegal passports

By Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton  
MCAGTF-8

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI- The Haitian National Police, assisted by Marines from 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment confiscated more than 60 passports and U.S. visas, detained three individuals and seized the equipment involved in the manufacture of the illegal documents during several simultaneous cordon and search operations here April 23.

These cordon and search operations were just a small portion of many operations that HNP and Marines from Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 have conducted over the past few weeks, resulting in the apprehension of several criminals and gang leaders as well as weapons, drugs and many other illegal items.

"Today's search went really well, we were able to use the intelligence given to us to uncover some passports and detain a few locals for questioning," said Sgt. Edward J. Somuk, squad leader, 3rd platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines. "The operation went just like we had rehearsed it."

Over the past few weeks, the HNP and Marines from MAGTF 8 have conducted operations in an attempt to rid the city of some of its more undesirable elements.

"Although it's hard to judge the success of these missions as a whole, one thing is for sure, we are clearly demonstrating our willingness to go into areas that the police were unwilling to go for years," said Col. David H. Berger, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines' commanding officer.

Long before Director General Leon Charles replaced the former head of the Haitian National Police, the HNP had a reputation for abuse and corruption. With Charles' leadership, and by working with the Multinational Interim Force, the HNP has been able to stabilize some of the more lawless areas of the country and begin to reestablish their reputation as an honest police force.

"I think it's great that we've been able to go into some of the worst areas of town with the Haitian National Police, and show the people that the HNP are a professional force," Berger said.

The HNP's reputation is being rebuilt by the manner in

which they and the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti conduct their operations.

"We don't go sneaking around scaring people, we simply ask them to cooperate with the search and normally they do," Berger explained. "It's important that our operations are as visible to the people as possible so they can see we are using restraint and also see a professional HNP."

With every joint operation MIF-Haiti and the HNP are able to work more closely together to making each operation run smoother than the last.

"Every operation that we conduct together increases the confidence they have in us as our confidence increases in them," Berger said.

The aspirations of the forces here follow the desires of the HNP, which is the improvement of the circumstances here.

"Working with the HNP, I've seen that they want what everyone else wants, which is the improvement of life for the Haitian people," Berger stated.

"They, like us, are working to get the job done right."



Photo by Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton

Marines from Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 and sailors of the task force have conducted many operations over the past few weeks, resulting in the apprehension of several criminals and gang leaders as well as arms, drugs and other illegal items.



**By Jim Gaines**  
MCCS Publicity

**Armed Forces Day Sale**

Save 10 to 25 percent on special featured items. Look for red, white and blue balloons that mark sale items.

For more information, call the Super Seven Store at 256-8974. The Super Seven Store and Gas Station hours are Mondays through Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Credit card sales for gas at the pumps are 24/7.

**Club Activities**

At the Oasis Club this week: Tonight is Happy Hour from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Tomorrow is Karaoke Night. Tuesday is Burn Your Own Steak Night, and Wednesday is Movie Night. Thursday is Happy Hour from

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. At the Enlisted Club this week: Darts, pool, TV and CD music every night. TGIFriday every Friday. Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays are Bar and Grill Nights, and Wednesdays are Midweek Relaxation Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 577-6418.

**Swimming Pools Open**

The swimming pools will be open the weekends of May 29 to 31 and June 5 to 6. Both pools will open full time beginning June 11. Family Pool eligibility: E-5 and below and authorized base civilian employees. Base employees must be present with family members. Oasis Pool eligibility: E-6 and above and authorized base civilian employees with Oasis Club membership. Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by a

parent or guardian of at least 18 years of age. For more information, call 577-6971.

**Movies On The Patio**

Free movies every Wednesday on the patio at the Enlisted Club. Bring your own chair, blanket and picnic dinner and take in a movie that is free. Wednesday's movie is "Pirates of the Caribbean." The film is rated PG-13, and the length of the film is two hours, 23 minutes. Movies begin at dusk. For more information, please call 577-6817.

**Child Toilet Training Class**

New Parent Support offers this class on May 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the FAP classroom in Building 129. Struggling between diapers and big boy/girl-pants? Join our one-hour tried and tested tip-packed class on achieving this development milestone. For information, call 577-6332.

**Hot Weather Is Here**

Time to cool off at one of many water parks. ITT has the tickets. Drop by and pick up your tickets today. Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call ITT at 577-6541.

Children, Youth & Teen Programs  
**BIKE-A-THON**  
For St. Jude's Children's Hospital



Thursday, May 20 - 2 to 5 p.m.  
Please join the children of MCLB Barstow as they participate in this **BIKE-A-THON** fundraiser. The children will be riding their bikes, trikes and skateboards to raise awareness of bicycle safety and to raise money for the Children's Hospital. Donations for this fundraiser can be dropped off at the Youth Activity Center! The children will also be selling snow-cones, cotton candy and popcorn, with the proceeds going to the Children's Hospital. For more information, please call 577-6499.